

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9 and 13 being independent. Claims 1-13 have been amended herein.

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have reworded the language questioned by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,030,065 (Fukuhata). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fukuhata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,390,586 (Takahashi et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 recites, inter alia, producing printing data corresponding to each of printing elements under a predetermined condition, with the printing elements differing in the sizes of dots to be formed, and converting the printing data into dot data for distributing a dot to a pixel, with the conversion being executed independently for and correspondingly to each of the different sizes of dots.

Fukuhata relates to a printing head having two head sections, with the two head sections being capable of discharging variable size ink droplets. As understood by Applicants, however, in Fukuhata the voltage is changed to vary the dot size, but there is

no disclosure or suggestion of converting produced printing data into dot data for distributing a dot to a pixel, with the conversion being executed independently for and correspondingly to each of the different sizes of dots, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 13.

Thus, Fukuhata fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Takahashi et al. relates to a recording apparatus having plural print buffers 309Y, 309M, 309C and 309Bk. However, Takahashi et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Fukuhata noted above with respect to the independent claims.

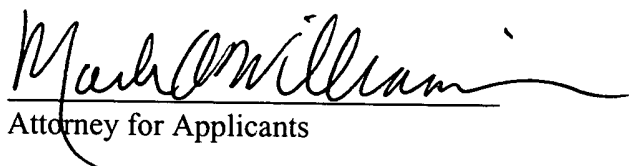
Thus, independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 9 and 13. Dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-12 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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